

THE CARBONDALE MIRROR

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25¢

Increase
Jermyn council Thursday
night gave the okay to
increase cable TV rates.
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Disaster
It really wasn't a disaster, but
ambulance corps and
hospitals treated Sunday's
mock disaster as the real
thing.
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WCDL-FM says 'bye'; WLSP-FM says howdie!



Program manager Joe Martin, at podium, conducts live on-air remote broadcast from Treadway Inn Monday night as officers of Lifestyle Productions of Pennsylvania cut ribbons inaugurating WLSP-FM. From left are Katie Blackwell, Noble V. Blackwell, Richard Owens, and Lykema Owens. See story at right. (MIRROR photo by Ros-Al)

Also teaches family life, credit, money, etc.

Lakeland class teaches students about (s-e-x)

By Nan Waters

The kids at Lakeland Junior-Senior High School are learning "about the birds and the bees" up to take this interesting elective course.

It's already been discussed on television, and over 20 ABC radio stations. It's one of very few, and possibly the only high school class of its kind in the area.

Why the spate of interest in this junior-senior-year elective? "It's taught

because it tells it like it is. About life.

As far as family life, money, credit, and sex,

is concerned, the instructor, a denim-clad cup in white blouse, lavender socks and matching spike heels. She comes with classes as many as 38 students and boys who are there because "they feel cool" if the wrong terminology crops up in class.

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Ideally, sex education should begin at home, in the classroom, the church. But since it isn't, in 95 percent of students' homes, and these kids need more education, it's up to the teacher to teach them to think on their own about these things within the framework of values."

Values stressed

I stress values over and over again," she smiles. And has (as some parents might feel), the condoning sexual activity among teenagers, the MIRROR asked Mrs. T?

"Not at all. Students have shown that the more they learn about sex, the more they get the less sexually active they are!"

With the exception of the first half, and the second course teaches birth control? "Out of 180 days in the school year, we discuss birth control only two days," she replies.

Has there ever been any major complaints in the years you've taught this particular course?

"Only once. From a Roman Catholic priest who called to say, 'Our church does not believe in birth control.' I told him I'm a Catholic, too, and we present both sides." Most parents, she says, have given her very

positive responses to their children's participation in her classes.

"Why, your class is the main topic of conversation at our supper table," one mother told Mrs. T.

According to Mrs. T., the attractive young woman keeps a very low profile, and never "loses her cool" if the wrong terminology crops up in class.

We use no street language here, only the proper names for things."

Only once did a male student use some rather unladylike language, and was disciplined by the school administration, he apologized to the teacher, and pleaded with her to let him return to the class.

"During the first class is treated

equally. There's some joking around, of course, but some of the kids who cause problems are the ones who act out."

The class itself is called Contemporary Perspectives in Education, in its first, and Perspectives in Parenting in the second.

Although the first part does deal with sex, the second part deals with sex and sexuality, part two teaches the kids "this is what it would be like to be married," dealing with apartments, jobs, credit, and sex.

Mrs. T. gives lectures from the fields of daily living.

And that is the course of study that produced Lakeland's first class of students, which up until last year took place on an annual basis in the school auditorium. Pairs of students were assigned to plan their own wedding arrangements, including costs of wedding attire, invitations, flowers, catering and honeymoons.

Leave reluctantly

As the bell rang ending the class, the students left room 150 almost simultaneously. Not long after, Mrs. T. treat them like adults, not like students, and asks for their feedback.

"Reception." Although the event was dispensed with last year, Mrs. T. is hoping for another such "mock wedding" in early

spring of 1982. Am I marriage material? Is the big question part two of the course asks.

What matrimonial material ideas of what matrimony involves, Mrs. T. says. In some respects, her students show very little knowledge of the subject.

Last Friday morning, the MIRROR visited the school to find the auditorium was filled with students, parents, and grandparents, and the walls and chaiseuse carpeting.

During the class discussion, which is open and spontaneous, students were asked to name the pros and cons of marriage.

The class agreed that natural childbirth is best, but birth where anesthesia is used, Mrs. T., who voices her opinions during the dialogue, and who has no children of her own, remarks casually, "I can't tell you, because I don't have any."

Students then discussed the pros and cons of the new law, which was introduced by Mayor Toleric, expressing his concerns for the minutes, said he was surprised to hear Chief Burke went down himself to Super Saver.

One hundred percent of the class strongly disagreed with the statement that "Avoiding pregnancy is primarily the woman's responsibility."

And so were

Mrs. T., who has her B.A. in home economics education from Penn State, and her M.S. in correlated nutrition from the University of Scranton, has participated in numerous community service projects throughout the years.

Most of her course work in college dealt with family studies.

Her course text is used in the course,

with the instructor preferring to refer to outside readings.

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